



**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- **Emergency Medical Services Division**
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

**Bob Taft, Governor**  
**Kenneth L. Morckel, Director**  
**Richard N. Rucker**  
*Executive Director*

Emergency Medical Services  
1970 West Broad Street  
P.O. Box 182073  
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073  
(614) 466-9447 • (800) 233-0785  
[www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov)

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Dear Ohio EMS Providers,

The experiences of the tragedies of 9-11 in 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 have substantiated the importance of our First Responders having the capacity to operate in an environment of "Interoperability". This operational capacity requires not only voice through radio interaction, but also data and text intercommunications.

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) has compiled a report titled "Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan", which addresses the infrastructure and interoperability improvements required to achieve optimal voice and data communications.

The State Interoperable Communications Plan will guide all emergency responders in the acquisition of communications equipment. The plan gives general guidance and not specific instructions as to future communications expenditures to constantly promote the ability to establish interoperable communications throughout Ohio. The State Interoperable communications plan has two parts,

Part One – Recommendations and Long range plans for interoperability (52 pages)

Part Two - Radio Systems Technologies and Tools for Interoperability (537 pages)

By following these guidelines, we will insure our ability in the future to have adequate and the indispensable ability to communicate with one another during an emergency or disaster. The Ohio Division of EMS is committed to working with the SIEC in making a concerted effort to achieving the vision of OSIRN (Ohio's Statewide Interoperable Radio Network) on behalf of Ohio's EMS providers.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Rucker  
Executive Director

**Mission Statement**

*"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."*